

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20 NIC-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 LAB-06

SIL-01 /140 W

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R 220930Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4853

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, GB

SUBJ: GABONESE 13TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

REF: LIBREVILLE 0694

1. GABON'S 13TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN LIBREVILLE, AUGUST 15-18, MOVED SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH ITS PLANNED SCHEDULE WITHOUT A HITCH. ELEVEN CHIEFS OF STATE, THREE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR MCKESSON, A FRENCH SUB-CABINET MEMBER AND FOCCART (SEE REFTEL FOR NAMES), HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A SERIES OF GALA EVENTS THAT INCLUDED A THREE AND ONE-HALF HOUR PARADE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A COMMERCIAL FAIR, STATE DINNERS, AN INAUGURAL FOOTBALL

MATCH IN NEW 40,000-SEAT SPORTS STADIUM, AND FLY-IN
OF CONCORDE JETLINER.

2. THE FOUR-DAY HAPPENING, LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL
EVER, WAS COMPLETELY FESTIVE. IN MORE SERIOUS VEIN,
BONGO'S 35-MINUTE TELEVISED INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH DEALT
WHOLLY WITH INTERNAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND AN EX-
TENSIVE REVIEW OF ECONOMIC SUCCESSES OF THE PAST YEAR.
HE EMPHASIZED BENEFITS TO THE COMMON PERSON OF GOVERNMENT
POLICIES. HE THEN POINTED OUT THAT IN PAST YEAR, GABON
HAS PROMULGATED A SERIES OF STEPS TO INSURE GOVERNMENT
CONTROL OF FOREIGN BUSINESS INTERESTS HERE. THIS HAS
COINCIDED WITH INCREASING NUMBERS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS AND
OF FULL EMPLOYMENT IN PUBLIC SECTOR. THUS EDUCATED
GABONESE MUST TURN TO PRIVATE SECTOR FOR JOBS. HE
POINTED OUT TO FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN THAT SUCH AN EVOLUTION
IS LOGICAL AND NOT TO BE FEARED, FOR GABONESE WOULD
ASSUME POSITIONS ONLY AS THEY PROVED THEMSELVES CAPABLE
OF SO DOING. TO GABONESE, BONGO POINTED OUT THAT
GABONIZATION WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE UNTIL QUALIFIED GABONESE
ARE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL
BUSINESS. HE DEMANDED THAT COMPANIES IMPROVE THEIR
TRAINING FACILITIES TO ASSIT IN THIS EVOLUTION.
REHFUSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LIBREV00712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730823/aaaaaqmq.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LIBREVILLE 0694
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GABONESE 13TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, GB, (BONGO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005